

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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EO 11652N/A
TAGS: CGEN, CASC, PL, US
SUBJ: W/W: ROGER M. GIBBONS: URGENT TRAVEL ADVISORY

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM AMERICAN CITIZEN
ROGER M. GIBBONS, WHO GIVES HIS ADDRESS AS C/O AMERICAN
EXPRESS, ROME, ITALY, AND WHO ADVISES THAT HE PROPOSES TO
VISIT POLAND IN AUGUST, 1978. HE POSES SEVERAL QUESTIONS
THAT, WE BELIEVE, REQUIRE URGENT ANSWERS TO HIM. THEY ARE:

A) IS THERE ANY BANKING INSTITUTION IN POLAND,
EITHER AMERICAN EXPRESS, ORBIS (THE POLISH STATE TOURIST
ENTITY), OR OTHER, WHICH WILL LET HIM CASH PERSONAL
CHECKS ON A US BANK WITH A CREDIT CARD AS IDENTITY? ANSWER:
NO. PERSONAL CHECKS CANNOT BE CASHED IN POLAND BY ANY
BANKING INSTITUTION. IF MR. GIBBONS PROPOSES TO SUPPLY
HIMSELF WITH FUNDS THAT WAY HERE, HE WILL SHORTLY FIND
HIMSELF DESTITUTE. HE SHOULD TRAVEL WITH TRAVELERS CHECKS
TO SUPPLY HIS CASH NEEDS. SOME CREDIT CARDS CAN BE USED
TO PAY BILL IN SOME FIRST CLASS HOTELS.

B) WOULD THERE BE ANY PROBLEM IN TAKING PHOTOS
OF POLISH MILITARY PERSONNEL IN UNIFORM? MR. GIBBONS
SAYS THAT HE USUALLY OFFERS THE INDIVIDUAL THE LOCAL
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CURRENCY EQUIVALENT OF \$10.00 AND THEN TAKES THE
PHOTOGRAPHS IN HIS HOTEL ROOM* ANSWER: WE STRONGLY
URGE MR. GIBBONS NOT REPEAT NOT TO TAKE SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS
IN POLAND. FURTHER HIS OFFER OF MONEY TO POLISH
ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL COMBINED WITH THE PROPOSAL
TO TAKE THE PHOTOS IN HIS HOTEL ROOM COULD BE
MISUNDERSTOOD.

C) CAN HE ARRIVE IN POLAND WITHOUT A VISA AND
OBTAIN ONE AT THE BORDER CROSSING POINT. ANSWER:
NO. VISAS ARE REQUIRED BY THE POLISH AUTHORITIES
BEFORE ARRIVAL. THEY CANNOT BE GOTTEN
AT THE BORDER. MR. GIBBONS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE
PERMITTED TO ENTER POLAND.

2. FOR ROME: PLEASE LOCATE MR. GIBBONS AND ADVISE HIM
OF THESE FACTS AND ADD THAT HE COULD GET IN QUITE SERIOUS
TROUBLE IF HE DISREGARDS THIS INFORMATION.
SCHAUFLE

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